works like Interception & Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc. were taken up. An expenditure of Rs.837.40 crore has been incurred for river Ganga, and a sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million liters per day (mid) has been created so far under the Plan.

Water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators, namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations, except in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 20th February, 2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for conservation of the Ganga River. Action has been initiated for preparation of a comprehensive Ganga river basin management plan which will form the basis for formulation of projects.

Currently, sewage treatment capacity of 1025 mld is available against about 3000 mld being generated in the towns along Ganga. To address this gap, the first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5th October 2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. The investment required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure will be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultation with the States, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

Mega food processing parks

2680. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up mega food processing parks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) In the 11th Plan, the Government has approved a new scheme to establish 30 Mega Food Parks with a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing sector in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis with a strong backward and forward linkage and to provide value

addition of agricultural commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. Financial assistance has been enhanced to 50% of project cost excluding land component in general areas and 75% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore for setting up of Mega Food Parks. 'In-principle' approval has been accorded in case of setting up of 10 Mega Food Park projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Detailed Project Report (DPR) in case of Andhra Pradesh (Chittoor), Assam (Nalbari), Jharkhand (Ranchi) and Uttarakhand (Haridwar) has been approved and 1st tranche of 1st instalment of grant has been released in these cases.

Improvement in Food Processing

2681. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is confident that by removing the existing constraints, the country could emerge as a global leader in food processing sector;

(b) whether PM has pointed out that despite being largest producer of milk, pulses and tea in the world, India's share in global food trade was almost negligible;

(c) whether the level of processing in the country is extremely low at about 6 per cent compared to 60-80 per cent in the developed countries; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps and the measures Government proposes to take to improve food processing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is confident that by removal of existing constraints, the country can emerge as a global leader in food processing sector. During the 1st Conference of State Food Processing Ministers and other stake holders held on 06.10.2009, Hon'ble PM observed that there is a need to increase the level of food processing to global standards.

(c) and (d) On the basis of Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries adopted by the Ministry, an integrated strategy and action plan for the growth of food processing industry sector has been drawn up to improve the current low levels of food processing in the country. The objective of the Strategy is to increase level of processing of perishable food from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3%. The level of processing for fruits and vegetables is envisaged to increase to 10% and 15% in 2010 and 2015 respectively.

For the development of the food processing sector, the Government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain, Value Added Centres and Modernization of Abattoirs. The